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EXAMINER
TRAN, QUOC A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2176	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
Office Action Summary	09/731,912	BIER, ERIC ALLAN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Quoc A. Tran	2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with th correspond nce address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>16 August 2004</u>.

2a)☐ This action is FINAL.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-27</u> is/are pending in the application.

     4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-27</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

     a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

       1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

       2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

       3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

     * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is responsive to Amendment A, filed 08/16/2004.

2.   Claims 1-27 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 12 and 20

are independent claims.

Drawings

3.   The Amended drawings were received on 08/16/2004. The drawing of

FIG. 6, element 60, page 6/12 is acknowledged.

Specification

4.   The Amended specifications were received on 08/16/2004. The

specification correction line 17, page 14 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

5.   35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

> Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine,
> manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful
> improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the
> conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 20-27 and 32, are rejected under 35 U S.C. 101 because the

claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 20 set forth

non-functional descriptive material but fail to set forth physical structures or

materials comprising of hardware or a combination of hardware and software

within the technological arts (i e. a computer) to produce a "useful, concrete and

tangible" result. Evidence that claim 20, has stated: *"An information storage

media"*, which fail(s) to define tangibly embodied on a computer readable

medium or hardware. Therefor its dependency claims 21-27 and 32 are similarly

rejected under the same rationale.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6.   **The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the**

basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically
> disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the
> differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the
> prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been
> obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary
> skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not
> be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7.   **Claims 1-3, 5-13, 15-21 and 23-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)**

being unpatentable over Bay-Wei Chang, "In-Place Editing of Web Pages:

Sparrow Community-Shared Documents", URL:

http://www2.parc.com/istl/projects/sparrow/doc/www7/

published 04/1998 (hereinafter Chang). In view of Ferrel et al

US006199082B1- filed 07/17/1995 (hereinafter '082).

In regard to independent claim 12, "*selecting a portion of an electronic*

document, editing the selected portion using the edit user interface and replacing

the selected portion based on the edited portion", as taught by Chang, pages 2-4

- Section 2.1 (i.e... sparrow lightweight editing ... Figure 1... clock on the black

triangle..."opening" of the item into an editable item...).

Chang does not explicitly teaches, "*determining an edit user interface for*

the selected portion", however as taught by '082 at col. 33, lines 34-67

(i.e...Project Editor ... UI provided by the project editor...The project editor is the

central editing point in design mode, and as such it interacts with the search

object, stylesheet, and page editors to configure and set properties on the title

objects....The project editor provides two types of interfaces...).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to have modified '082 into Chang's teaching, to

provide a way, wherein editing web document included an edit user interface for

the selected portion. One of the ordinary skill in the art would have been

motivated to modify this combination to utilize the publication systems, wherein

user define particular regions of every page for a specific purpose. For example,

the user can place a graphic frame that runs along the top of the page to hold a

particular image. In addition, the user can format the text information within the

text frame to have desired font and paragraph characteristics. For example, the

user can highlight the characters within the text frame and define that font to be,

for example, bold-faced. The user can also choose to only apply a character

format to specific words or paragraphs within a text frame, as taught by '082 at

col. 3, lines 30-65 (i.e... publication systems let the user define particular regions

of every page for a specific purpose...).

In regard to dependent claim 13, "*the replacing accounts for one or

more edits by other users*", as taught by Chang, page 1 - Section 1

(i.e...Introduction... web pages are jointly edited by more than one person...).

In regard to independent claim 1, is directed to a system for performing

the method of claim 12, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 2, is directed to a system for performing

the method of claim 13, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 8, " the element selection device permits selection of all portions of the electronic document that are associated with a given portion class ", as taught by Chang at page 10, section 3.3, Interview schedule (i.e... I... The interview schedule is an example of a class of Sparrow pages...), and also at page 13, section 4.4 Fields, Python subclass.

In regard to dependent claim 9, " *the portion classes include the class of items, the class of templates, and the class of remaining code*", as taught by Chang, at page 11, section 4.1 paragraph 1 (i.e... Sparrow provides flexible authoring for creating many different kinds of content. Sparrow items are specified declaratively, by creating a template that includes the fields that will be used and the HTML formatting around the field entries...).

In regard to dependent claim 10, " *a user may select and edit portions of the template class, while one or more other users may simultaneously edit portions of the item class* ", as taught by Chang, at page 14, section 4.6, paragraph 1 (i.e... one user may change an item on a page without affecting other users who are editing other items on the same page...).

In regard to dependent claim 11, " *one user may select and edit portions of the remaining code class* ", as taught by Chang, at page 15, section 5 paragraphs 5 (i.e... WebEdit [6], WebWriter [2, 3], and Wiki Wiki Web all implement browser-based editing of Web pages. Like Sparrow, these systems allow one to edit pages directly within the browser, thus freeing the user from starting another tool or knowing where the page is stored on the filesystem.

Unlike Sparrow, they require knowledge of HTML and editing occurs over the entire contents of a page...).

In regard to dependent claim 15, "*the edit user interface displays a placeholder corresponding to at least one non-selected portion and the selected portion and wherein the edit user interface suppresses the at least one non-selected portion of the electronic document*", as taught by Chang at page 7, section 2.2 (i.e... editing one item at a time ... Editing in-place... During editing, the context of the rest of the page remains in place. The metaphor used is that of the outliner: the triangle graphic turns downwards to open up a region holding more detail, in this case, an editing region. Meanwhile, the page content above and below the editing region remains unchanged and visible. The user is free to browse the rest of the page even when editing...).

In regard to dependent claims 16 and 24, incorporate substantially similar subject matter as cited in claim 12 above, and is similarly rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 17, "*unlocking the electronic document; and processing any user contributions stored in a queue*", as taught by Chang, at page 14, section 4.6 first paragraph (i.e... When Web pages are jointly edited by more than one person, much meta-information about the page must be distributed in addition to its URL: who is currently editing the page, where the page is stored in the filesystem, who has permission to write to that filesystem...), also as taught by Chang section 1. Introduction (i.e... collaborative working environment in which web pages are meant to grow and change under

the influence of multiple people ... with a tool to help them write HTML, and with

the details of fetching the page and returning the edited version back to its

location ...).

In regard to dependent claim 18, "*replacing one or more of the non-*

selected portions with a placeholder", as taught by Chang, at page 6, section 2.1

(i.e... most Sparrow pages use the convention of the disclosure triangle at the

front of the item to indicate editability, Sparrow authors are free to use any

graphic, or even a form button, and place it anywhere in the item--front, end,

even middle. (In fact, by omitting the graphic, a Sparrow author can make the

item uneditable, forming a list that can be added to ...).

In regard to dependent claim 19, " *the electronic document comprises*

items, templates and remaining code ", however as taught by '082 at col. 17,

lines 50-60 (i.e... the MP system 100 includes MPS document editor templates

that handle most of the tagging for the author...), also as taught by '082 at col.

25, lines 2-15 (i.e... The set of publisher OLE custom controls 534 (also known

as BBCTL.OCX) is a DLL which provides the code for implementing instances of

the OLE custom controls which are standard for the MP system 100...),

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to have modified '082 into Chang's teaching, to

provide a way, wherein the electronic document comprises items, templates and

remaining code. One of the ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to

modify this combination to utilize the publication systems, wherein user define

particular regions of every page for a specific purpose. For example, the user can

place a graphic frame that runs along the top of the page to hold a particular

image. In addition, the user can format the text information within the text frame

to have desired font and paragraph characteristics. For example, the user can

highlight the characters within the text frame and define that font to be, for

example, bold-faced. The user can also choose to only apply a character format

to specific words or paragraphs within a text frame, as taught by '082 at col. 3,

lines 30-65 (i.e... publication systems let the user define particular regions of

every page for a specific purpose...).

In regard to dependent claim 3, is directed to a system for performing

the method of claim 17, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 5, is directed to a system for performing

the method of claim 16, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 6, is directed to a system for performing

the method of claim 18, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 7, is directed to a system for performing

the method of claims 15, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

In regard to independent claim 20, is directed to an information storage

media for performing the method of claim 12, and is similarly rejected under the

same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 21, is directed to an information storage

media for performing the method of claim 13, and is similarly rejected under the

same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 25, is directed to an information storage

media for performing the method of claim 17, and is similarly rejected under the

same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 26, is directed to an information storage

media for performing the method of claim 18, and is similarly rejected under the

same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 27, is directed to an information storage

media for performing the method of claim 19, and is similarly rejected under the

same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 28, "*a plurality of editing devices each with*

a different edit user interface, wherein one of the edit user interfaces from one of

the plurality of editing devices is selected for the editing of the selected, portion",

however as taught by '082 at col. 33, lines 34-67 (i.e...Project Editor ...UI

provided by the project editor...The project editor is the central editing point in

design mode, and as such it interacts with the search object, stylesheet, and

page editors to configure and set properties on the title objects....The project

editor provides two types of interfaces...). And also as taught by '082 at col. 5,

lines 40-50 (i.e... The tagged content can be displayed with high quality on a

variety of different devices. For example, a content provider can create a title

just once, but the title can be viewed on a VGA screen with one column, a

printer with many columns, a small screen PDA, an interactive television (ITV)

system, a fax machine, or a notebook computer..).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to have modified '082 into Chang's teaching, to

provide a way, wherein a plurality of editing devices each with a different edit

user interface, wherein one of the edit user interfaces from one of the plurality of

editing devices is selected for the editing of the selected, portion. One of the

ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify this combination to

utilize the publication systems, wherein user define particular regions of every

page for a specific purpose. For example, the user can place a graphic frame

that runs along the top of the page to hold a particular image. In addition, the

user can format the text information within the text frame to have desired font

and paragraph characteristics. For example, the user can highlight the

characters within the text frame and define that font to be, for example, bold-

faced. The user can also choose to only apply a character format to specific

words or paragraphs within a text frame, as taught by '082 at col. 3, lines 30-65

(i.e... publication systems let the user define particular regions of every page for

a specific purpose...).

In regard to dependent claim 29, *"the electronic document is a web*

page and the plurality of editing devices are each different web page editing

devices", as taught by Chang, at page 2, section 1 Intro (i.e... Sparrow is

designed to facilitate community-shared web pages... Sparrow's lightweight

editing is an implicit invitation to join in the evolution of the web page... which will

make it more likely that community members will feel comfortable making

changes and adding to the document....).

In regard to dependent claim 30, *"selecting one of a plurality of different*

edit user interfaces, wherein the editing of the selected portion is with the

selected one of the plurality of different edit user interfaces", however as taught

by '082 at col. 33, lines 34-67 (i.e... Project Editor ... UI provided by the project

editor... The project editor is the central editing point in design mode, and as

such it interacts with the search object, stylesheet, and page editors to configure

and set properties on the title objects.... The project editor provides two types of

interfaces...). And also as taught by '082 at col. 5, lines 40-50 (i.e... The tagged

content can be displayed with high quality on a variety of different devices. For

example, a content provider can create a title just once, but the title can be

viewed on a VGA screen with one column, a printer with many columns, a small

screen PDA, an interactive television (ITV) system, a fax machine, or a

notebook computer..).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to have modified '082 into Chang's teaching, to

provide a way, wherein selecting one of a plurality of different edit user

interfaces, wherein the editing of the selected portion is with the selected one of

the plurality of different edit user interfaces. One of the ordinary skill in the art

would have been motivated to modify this combination to utilize the publication

systems, wherein user define particular regions of every page for a specific

purpose. For example, the user can place a graphic frame that runs along the

top of the page to hold a particular image. In addition, the user can format the

text information within the text frame to have desired font and paragraph

characteristics. For example, the user can highlight the characters within the text

frame and define that font to be, for example, bold-faced. The user can also

choose to only apply a character format to specific words or paragraphs within a

text frame, as taught by '082 at col. 3, lines 30-65 (i.e... publication systems let

the user define particular regions of every page for a specific purpose...).

In regard to dependent claim 31, *"the electronic document is a web*

page and the plurality of different edit user interfaces are each different web page

edit user interfaces", as taught by Chang, at page 2, section 1 Intro (i.e...

Sparrow is designed to facilitate community-shared web pages... Sparrow's

lightweight editing is an implicit invitation to join in the evolution of the web

page... which will make it more likely that community members will feel

comfortable making changes and adding to the document....).

In regard to dependent claim 32, *"the information that determines an*

edit user interface further comprises information that selects one of a plurality of

different edit user interfaces, wherein the information that edits the selected

portion is with the selected one of the plurality of different edit user interfaces",

however as taught by '082 at col. 33, lines 34-67 (i.e... Project Editor ... UI

provided by the project editor... The project editor is the central editing point in

design mode, and as such it interacts with the search object, stylesheet, and

page editors to configure and set properties on the title objects.... The project

editor provides two types of interfaces...).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to have modified '082 into Chang's teaching, to

provide a way, wherein selecting one of a plurality of different edit user

interfaces, wherein the information that edits the selected portion is with the

selected one of the plurality of different edit user interfaces. One of the ordinary

skill in the art would have been motivated to modify this combination to utilize

the publication systems, wherein user define particular regions of every page for

a specific purpose. For example, the user can place a graphic frame that runs

along the top of the page to hold a particular image. In addition, the user can

format the text information within the text frame to have desired font and

paragraph characteristics. For example, the user can highlight the characters

within the text frame and define that font to be, for example, bold-faced. The

user can also choose to only apply a character format to specific words or

paragraphs within a text frame, as taught by '082 at col. 3, lines 30-65 (i.e...

publication systems let the user define particular regions of every page for a

specific purpose...).

In regard to dependent claim 33, *"the electronic document is a web*

page and the plurality of editing devices are each different web page editing

devices", as taught by Chang, at page 2, section 1 Intro (i.e... Sparrow is

designed to facilitate community-shared web pages... Sparrow's lightweight

editing is an implicit invitation to join in the evolution of the web page... which will

make it more likely that community members will feel comfortable making

changes and adding to the document....).

8.   **Claims 4, 14 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being**

unpatentable over Bay-Wei Chang, "In-Place Editing of Web Pages:

Sparrow Community-Shared Documents", URL:

http://www2.parc.com/istl/projects/sparrow/doc/www7/

published 04/1998 (hereinafter Chang). In view of Ferrel et al

US006199082B1- filed 07/17/199 (hereinafter '082), in further view of Ken

Pier et al. PARC WebEdit: Shared Text Editing in a web Brower.

http://www.parc.xerox.com/istl/groups/gir/doc/webedit/webedext.htm

(hereinafter Pier) published 01/1996.

In regard to dependent claim 14, Chang and '082 do not explicitly teach,

"locking the electronic document", however as taught by Pier at page 8 first

paragraph (i.e. ...PARC WebEdit uses file-level locking ..., see Pier section

Locking and saving,..).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to have modified Pier's teaching into Chang and

'082 , to provide a way, wherein editing web document included locking the

electronic document. One of the ordinary skill in the art would have been

motivated to modify this combination to utilize the publication systems, wherein

user define particular regions of every page for a specific purpose. For example,

the user can place a graphic frame that runs along the top of the page to hold a

particular image. In addition, the user can format the text information within the

text frame to have desired font and paragraph characteristics. For example, the

user can highlight the characters within the text frame and define that font to be,

for example, bold-faced. The user can also choose to only apply a character

format to specific words or paragraphs within a text frame, as taught by '082 at

col. 3, lines 30-65 (i.e... publication systems let the user define particular regions

of every page for a specific purpose...).

In regard to dependent claim 4, is directed to a system for performing

the method of claims 14, and is similarly rejected under the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 22, is directed to an information storage

media for performing the method of claim 14, and is similarly rejected under the

same rationale.

Response to Argument

9.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1-33 have been considered

but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

10.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure.

Michael J Rees.

Implementing Responsive Lightweight In-page Editing, published 02/14/2000

Randal et al.

Using Microsoft FrontPage, published by Que Corporation 1996

11.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from

the examiner should be directed to Quoc A. Tran whose telephone number is

(571) 272- 4103. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through
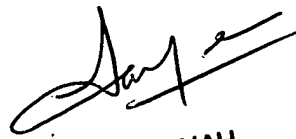
Friday from 8:30AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the

examiner's supervisor, Joseph H. Feild can be reached on (571) 272-4090. The

fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is

assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from

the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information

for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public

PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through

Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-

direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-

free).

SANJIV SHAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Quoc A. Tran

Patent Examiner

Technology Center 2176

January 16, 2005